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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending April 10, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Average Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania is still drying out after severe flooding hit much of the state two weeks ago. Field activities picked up as sunshine brought warmer temperatures and drier conditions. However, the ground remains quite saturated in many areas throughout the state. Overall, 3 days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included feeding livestock, spreading lime, spreading manure, spring tillage, planting oats, pruning fruit trees, equipment maintenance, and preparing for spring planting.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 10, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	50	50

Crops: Drying out in some areas allowed some farmers to plant oats over the last week as well as begin plowing. Oats are now 15 percent planted, which is on track with the 5-year average. Spring plowing is now 14 percent complete, which is well behind last year as well as the 5-year average. Winter wheat appears to be in good shape as it was rated with the following conditions for the week: 1 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Alfalfa was estimated to be 3 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Timothy clover stand also at 1 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Both have improved slightly from last

week.

Livestock: Farmers are rotating animals from field to field throughout the state. Some farmers are also busy shearing sheep. Pasture conditions were rated as 8 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. This is a significant increase from the previous week.

U.S. As of April 3, 2005: Highlights: Heavy rainfall hindered field preparation and planting across the Southeast, Ohio Valley, and Atlantic Coast, with no more than 2 days suitable for fieldwork in most States. Light to moderate rainfall in the Pacific Northwest helped replenish soil moisture after a dry winter, but more precipitation is needed for small grains, pastures, and summer crops. Precipitation was mostly light across the western Corn Belt, central Great Plains, and central Rocky Mountains, allowing fieldwork to progress normally. Though little rain fell in the Mississippi Delta, soggy conditions persisted from heavy rainfall in the previous weeks, severely hampering fieldwork. Mostly dry conditions prevailed across the northern Great Plains, where lack of soil moisture remained a concern for winter wheat growers. In the southern Great Plains, mostly dry conditions were favorable for fieldwork, though some fields remained too soggy to support equipment. Winter Wheat: Crop condition declined significantly over the winter but was still higher than at any point during the previous 4 crop years. Though conditions worsened in most States, the greatest declines were in the Pacific Northwest and northern Great Plains, where lack of snow cover over the winter left the plants exposed to cold weather.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 10, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 10, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	69	29	47	5	0.34	2	1.64	0.58	4	25	25	76
Franklin	77	29	48	6	0.29	2	1.70	0.57	4	19	19	86
Meadville	75	30	48	7	0.14	2	1.11	0.01	4	26	26	90
Mercer	78	21	45	2	0.37	1	2.32	1.14	3	11	11	69
Springboro	75	27	45	3	0.05	2	1.94	0.96	4	11	11	62
Warren	80	28	46	5	0.59	3	1.99	0.86	5	14	14	76
North Central												
Bradford Region	74	24	44	6	0.11	2	0.96	-0.14	4	8	8	59
Emporium	79	26	47	7	0.13	1	0.88	-0.22	3	16	16	78
Kane	76	22	44	6	0.61	2	1.66	0.46	4	5	5	58
Laporte	74	31	47	4	0.30	2	2.99	1.96	5	15	13	74
Lock Haven	84	30	50	6	0.00	0	1.75	0.75	2	29	27	98
Port Allegany	77	25	45	5	0.05	2	1.02	0.02	4	10	10	68
Renovo	82	29	50	7	0.05	1	1.27	0.27	3	28	26	99
Ridgway	77	24	45	6	0.34	1	1.35	0.25	3	8	8	71
Stevenson Dam	81	29	50	10	0.16	2	1.28	0.18	4	25	25	96
Towanda	79	30	48	5	0.32	2	3.06	2.16	4	21	19	85
Wellsboro	78	28	47	8	0.09	2	2.10	1.40	5	17	17	73
Williamsport	80	32	52	6	0.01	1	3.22	2.19	3	33	24	107
Northeast												
Hawley	78	28	47	6	0.50	2	3.54	2.47	4	14	14	70
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	78	33	51	7	0.25	2	3.15	2.24	4	34	32	105
Susquehanna	75	30	47	8	0.36	2	2.97	1.80	4	15	15	76
West Central												
Butler	78	29	51	6	0.05	2	1.77	0.72	4	33	30	107
New Castle	81	28	50	7	0.07	2	2.47	1.47	4	28	28	99
Slippery Rock	79	30	50	8	0.17	2	2.52	1.46	4	28	28	101
Central												
Altoona/Blair	79	33	52	7	0.02	1	0.37	-0.69	3	39	30	109
DuBois	75	29	50	7	0.20	3	1.18	0.08	5	30	30	97
Lewistown	84	33	53	6	0.07	1	1.44	0.54	3	41	30	116
Middletown	81	33	55	7	0.99	1	3.35	2.35	3	51	36	134
Prince Gallitzi	79	23	47	5	0.20	1	1.07	-0.33	3	17	17	78
Selinsgrove	83	31	50	5	0.11	2	3.28	2.28	4	26	18	98
State College	81	33	51	8	0.12	2	0.88	-0.09	4	36	34	106
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	80	34	53	7	0.75	2	4.41	3.31	5	37	28	122
Leighton	79	32	51	6	0.47	2	4.97	3.97	4	30	24	111
Matamoras	77	27	48	4	0.28	2	3.75	2.50	5	18	15	83
Tobyhanna	78	33	50	11	0.58	2	3.52	2.24	4	22	22	97
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	79	36	56	10	0.25	1	0.96	-0.04	3	66	56	145
Derry	78	30	51	8	0.51	2	1.69	0.66	4	32	32	109
Myersdale	76	27	48	4	0.17	2	0.80	-0.50	4	14	13	78
Mount Pleasant	79	26	51	9	0.03	1	0.40	-0.92	3	33	33	109
Pittsburgh Intl	79	32	54	8	0.03	2	1.00	-0.09	4	57	47	133
Rector	78	31	51	9	0.31	2	1.20	-0.12	4	31	31	106
Waynesburg	81	29	52	7	0.13	1	0.76	-0.38	3	32	25	107
South Central												
Biglerville	82	34	53	5	0.41	2	2.31	1.21	5	40	25	120
Everett	75	29	48	3	0.05	1	0.82	-0.25	3	16	11	78
Hanover	83	29	54	6	0.43	1	2.28	1.18	3	43	28	125
Shippensburg	82	32	53	5	0.22	2	1.70	0.67	4	37	21	115
South Mountain	82	32	53	8	0.69	1	2.63	1.57	3	39	32	121
York	83	28	53	5	0.38	2	2.43	1.24	4	46	31	127
Southeast												
Green Lane	79	35	53	7	0.61	2	4.93	3.77	5	32	25	116
Hamburg	82	34	53	9	0.32	1	3.29	2.10	4	39	38	120
Hopewell	80	35	53	4	0.75	3	3.40	2.20	5	34	18	117
Lancaster	81	35	54	7	0.44	1	2.60	1.50	3	45	35	131
Neshaminy Falls	78	31	51	4	0.72	3	3.63	2.33	5	23	13	99
New Holland	83	37	54	8	0.37	2	2.74	1.64	4	48	38	131
Philadelphia	77	40	56	7	0.81	1	3.67	2.47	4	52	35	145
Philadelphia NE	78	37	56	7	0.76	1	3.50	2.30	3	54	37	147
Reading	81	37	54	9	1.12	1	3.42	2.22	4	46	40	135
Valley Forge Na	85	30	53	4	0.60	2	4.72	3.52	4	40	24	119
Willow Grove	79	36	54	8	0.78	2	4.00	2.70	4	42	32	129

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Sharon Weigle (FSA) - - Heavy rains early last week hampered field work. Favorable temperatures good for wheat, barley and forage crops.

BERKS COUNTY, Mena Hautau (EXT) - - Timothy mites detected in eastern Berks County. Spring work was delayed this week. Some spraying and manure spreading done midweek.

BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA) - - Soil moisture is extremely high. This condition is inhibiting spring plowing on the heavier soil types. Some top dressing is being completed. If rain holds off for the coming week, the fields may become workable enough to allow spring plowing to begin.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - - Little to no planting is being done at this time. Lime, fertilizer, and seed orders are being placed. Clean-up of field borders from the fallen trees from the winter ice storms continues. Fuel prices are inflating the price of lime and delivery charges. Lime prices vary daily pending the fuel price that day.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - - The week started out with snow melt, rain and mud, but ended with sunshine and warm weather. Fields have dried surprisingly quickly with the higher temperatures and light winds.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - - Many farmers are mending fences, spreading manure and preparing fields for spring planting. Some parts of 4 counties (Clarion/Venango/Forest/Warren) were able to sow oats and spring grass seedings. Most of the counties are still drying out from last week's rains and snow storm. The fields are greening and hay growth is getting off to a good start.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - - After about 5 inches of rain in the previous two weeks, things have turned around and some alfalfa and oats did get in late in the week. Also, reports of some treated corn planted as well. Reported totals of several hundred acres being planted. Saw producer out in the field this morning (Monday) planting corn as well. No problems with any fruit trees at this time.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT) - - What a difference one week makes. Soils are beginning to dry off, and field work is under way. A few farmers have even planted some corn. With the forecast fairly dry for the upcoming week, field activity will be booming.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - - Over 7.5 inches of rain since Palm Sunday. Now we are looking for several inches of sunshine!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - - Continued wet soil conditions prevented most field work. 3-4+ inches of rain Saturday, April 2nd, and another inch Friday, April 8th, has made everyone hoping for a dry spell. Some wheat was top dressed in mid to late March which was the last opportunity. Cereal rust mites were observed this week on timothy in fairly high numbers.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - - Following a weekend of heavy rain coupled with minor flooding, the week turned out to very nice. The lighter soils on the higher elevations dried nicely, which allowed for some field activities, such as plowing, seedbed preparation for the seeding of oats and alfalfa by the end of the week. In addition, many farmers were spreading manure, chopping corn stalks, repairing machinery, and preparing equipment for seeding and spraying. The wheat and barley fields are greening up very nicely except in the poorly drained areas.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - - What a difference a week of sunshine will do! The grass is greener on the other side. Lots of cows seen looking over the barnyard fence wanting to be in the pasture. Maybe next week. Fertilizer and manure are being spread with seed and fertilizer being delivered in anticipation of planting to begin in the next two weeks.

TIOGA COUNTY, Craig Williams (EXT) - - Pasture is just starting to green up with leaves. Saw two river bottom fields chisel plowed with the hillside still wet.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - - We are finally starting to dry out. Midweek rain passed quickly but streams are quite full from winter snow melt. We still need another week of warm temperatures to get the ground dry enough to plow. Pastures are starting to green up and fall seeded rye is growing in the warm sunshine.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Charles Shrump (NRCS) - - The dry weather over this past weekend gave the field work in this area a much needed jump start.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - - Finally some dry and warmer days. Had several days this week in the upper 70s. Good progress with fertilizer spreading, manure hauling, primary tillage and oats planting. Sweet corn under plastic is being planted. A couple of growers are about ready to start field corn planting.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 10, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	14	24	22
Oats, planted	15	13	15
Oats, emerged	1	1	4

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 10, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	16	70	13
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	22	68	7
Timothy clover stand	0	1	24	66	9
Pasture	8	8	39	33	12

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